

Wallet a Dollar and Existence of God

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Part One: What Reason is There to Believe God Exists?

Q: Why does the speaker say he is a Christian?

A: I am a Christian because it is TRUE. Christianity is reasonable; it makes sense. It explains what I see in my own nature and in the world around me.

Q: What is Theism?

A: Belief in God

Q: What is Christian Theism?

A: Belief in the God of the Bible, NT

Q: How did the dollar bill get in the wallet?' Answer that question without going OUTSIDE the wallet for an answer

A: Various

Q: What is important to note about a dollar bill?

A: It contains so much detail! Specific numbers and drawings and words are inked on the paper

Q: What do the markings on a dollar bill convey?

A: Information

Q: Information is evidence of what?

A: Intelligence is involved in the creation of the dollar

Q: How could the dollar get in the wallet if it wasn't placed in there by someone or something OUTSIDE the wallet?

Q: What are the only Two options to answer how the dollar got in the wallet?

A: 1. Dollar ALWAYS in the wallet, 2. Formed over time from much more primitive materials that were in the wallet to begin with.

Q: What two choices do we have about how life began in the universe?

A: We have to conclude that the matter and life we see in this universe has either always been here, or it has evolved over time from lesser base elements.

Q: What has Science told us about matter and the Universe?

A: NOT always been here

Q: What is the term Scientists use to describe the beginning of the Universe?

A: The Big bang

Q: If the Universe had a beginning, what does this tell us?

A: If the universe had a beginning, then it makes sense that the universe had a beginner, and this beginner simply **MUST** have come from someplace other than the universe it began!"

Q: What does the speaker say is the most satisfying answer for how a highly designed object appears within the wallet

A: Clearly the most satisfying answer for how a highly designed object appears within the wallet is to conclude that someone or something **PLACED** that object in the wallet.

Q: Why does the speaker believe that THEISM is true?

A: "I believe that THEISM is true because the existence of an all-powerful first cause **OUTSIDE** the natural realm is the best and most reasonable inference from the evidence.

Step Two: What Kind of God Exists?

Q: Why does the speaker believe that the God who created our universe is a personal being?

A: Based on His ability to DECIDE

Q: Why is it that Gravity does not decide to act?

A: Gravity is an impersonal force

Q: The ability to DECIDE whether to act is a characteristic of

A: Personhood

Q: If the creative cause of the universe is only as old as the universe itself, then we must ask the obvious question,

A: 'Hey what caused THAT force to exist?'

Q: Why does the speaker believe that PERSONAL THEISM is true?

A: Because the first, uncaused cause of the universe was able to DECIDE as a personal agent.

Step Three: What Kind of Faith System is Most Reasonable?

Q: What argument does the speaker give for his belief in a God who cares for His creation?

A: The fact that He chose to create us should give us good reason to think that He actually cares about us.

Q: "It makes sense that a personal creator God would want his personal creations to understand and strive for the very values that are a reflection of his nature. Our human instinct is to create RULES that we can follow so that we can measure our success and judge how close we are to being 'Godly', but does a system of rules actually create a Godly person?"

Q: What if you ONLY picked up the wallet because you wanted that dollar? Would your actions still be seen as morally good, or would your greedy motive ruin the nature of the action?

Q: What type of people does a rules-based and works-based religious system actually produce?

A: They produce people who LOOK good

Q: What does the speaker say is a test of true goodness?

A: True goodness is a heart condition. It's a reflection of who we are when no one is looking

Q: What do you think? Do you agree?

Q: What type of spiritual worldview are truly good people even possible?

A: One that does not REQUIRE good works.

Q: What religious worldview teaches that Salvation is NOT the result of anything that you can do, but is instead the result of something that has already been done for you by God Himself?

A: Christianity

Q: What does the Christian Worldview teach?

A: The Christian worldview teaches that Jesus came to pay the price for every 'less than perfect' thing you ever did; every sin and crime you've ever committed.

Q: If God doesn't judge us based on any good deed we might do, how does He judge us?

A: God accepts us on the basis of who JESUS is and the price that He paid for us if we will only believe in Him and trust HIM instead of ourselves

Conclusion: There Are Lot's of Good Reasons

"So, I think there are some really good reasons to believe what I believe about God and the nature of His message to us. I am a Christian because:

(1) I believe that THEISM (the belief in an all-powerful first cause that is NOT part of the natural caused universe) best accounts for the appearance of our universe, and...

(2) I believe that PERSONAL THEISM best accounts for the nature of this 'first cause' and the fact that this cause had the ability to DECIDE to begin the universe, and...

(3) I believe that CHRISTIAN THEISM best accounts for the possibility of true moral goodness (something that a Personal God would desire for his creation)